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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,172	02/26/2004	Masaaki Uematsu	1785.1006	3469
21171	7590	12/29/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP			JOYCE, WILLIAM C	
SUITE 700			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.			3682	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	12/29/2006		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary for Applications Under Accelerated Examination	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/786,172	UEMATSU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William C. Joyce	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Since this application has been granted special status under the accelerated examination program,

NO extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be permitted and a SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE:

ONE MONTH OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER,
FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION – if this is a non-final action or a Quayle action.
(Examiner: For FINAL actions, please use PTOL-326.)

The objective of the accelerated examination program is to complete the examination of an application within twelve months from the filing date of the application. Any reply must be filed electronically via EFS-Web so that the papers will be expeditiously processed and considered. If the reply is not filed electronically via EFS-Web, the final disposition of the application may occur later than twelve months from the filing of the application.

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 3) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 - 3a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 4) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-4 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 6) Claim(s) 5-10 is/are objected to.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 8) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 9) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 10) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 11) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the First Office Action in response to the above identified patent application filed on February 26, 2004.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed February 26, 2004 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because the US Publication 200280066331 A1 is not a proper reference number. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

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The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the implied phrase "A device according to the present invention" should be removed. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Margrain (FR 2 599 568).

Margrain illustrated in Figures 5-7 a device for laying a plurality of line elements between a first member and a second member rotatable in relation to each other about a rotation axis, said line elements containing at least one of electric and fluid lines, one end of each line element held on said first member by a holding member and the other end thereof held on said second member by a holding member, said device comprising:

a double pipe structure having an inner pipe member and an outer pipe member having different diameters and a center axis, said inner and outer pipe members arranged in a generally coaxial relationship to each other and coupled to each other by a coupling member, said double pipe structure adapted to be attached to the first member with the center axis thereof generally aligning with the rotation axis; and said plurality of line elements divided into first and second groups, said first group of line elements being laid to extend through an inner hole of said inner pipe member and said second group of line elements being laid to extend through an annular gap formed between said inner pipe member and said outer pipe member.

7. Claims 1-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasunaga (JP 5-116090).

Yasunaga illustrated a device for laying a plurality of line elements between a first member and a second member rotatable in relation to each other about a rotation axis, said line elements containing at least one of electric and fluid lines, one end of each line element held on said first member by a holding member and the other end thereof held on said second member by a holding member, said device comprising: a double pipe structure having an inner pipe member and an outer pipe member having different diameters and a center axis, said inner and outer pipe members arranged in a generally coaxial relationship to each other and coupled to each other by a coupling member, said double pipe structure adapted to be attached to the first member with the center axis thereof generally aligning with the rotation axis; and said plurality of line

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elements divided into first and second groups, said first group of line elements being laid to extend through an inner hole of said inner pipe member and said second group of line elements being laid to extend through an annular gap formed between said inner pipe member and said outer pipe member.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 5-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the lie device of Dodd et al. (USP 5,742,982) and Hartmann et al. (USP 4,705,243).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (571) 272-7107. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


William C. Joyce 12/23/06